

GOOD IDEAS – June 2005

Child and Youth Services (CYS) Good Ideas

CONUS LOCATIONS

Location: Fort Benning

Name of Activity: YS Skateboard Competitions

Description: Youth in categories from 10-12 years; 13-15 years; and 16-18 years participate in formally organized skateboard competitions where they can demonstrate their technical skills and skateboard “grinds, railsides, and kickflips.” Prizes for winners included a new skateboard and clothing items.

Installation POC: Linda Laine (laine1@benning.army.mil)

Location: Fort Bragg

Name of Activity: Interviewing Skills for teens

Description: Students participating in the camp counselors' course were given information on how to properly interview as a result of a partnership between School Liaison Services and the Employment Readiness Program. Parents and students alike were impressed with the presentation.

Installation POC: Karen Miller (millerkl@bragg.army.mil)

Name of Activity: Youth Leadership Conference

Description: Youth Education Support Services (YESS) hosts a Youth Leadership Conference to assist youth between the ages of 13-18 to develop leadership skills that will instill a spirit of community within them. The process first identifies the top three issues affecting military-connected youth and then goes into a series of workshops that is hands on and interactive.

Installation POC: Karen Miller (millerkl@bragg.army.mil)

Location: Fort Campbell

Name of Activity: The "READING WIZARDS" Club

Description: A reading club for 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders who enjoy reading the Harry Potter Series Books. The club meets three times a week and each child receives "book charms" incentives to put on their chain necklaces which are worn during the club meeting. Children are encouraged to take turns reading aloud and participate in discussions of the story.

Installation POC: Katy Eccles (katy.eccles@mwr.campbell.army.mil)

Name of Activity: A Family Banner

Description: The Child Development Center preschool room developed a “family banner” project that allowed the family to be creative, interact, and have lots of fun together as a family unit. Once completed, the banner is displayed in the room and both children and parents can relate to the time they shared together in its making.

Installation POC: Shirley Beard (shirley.beard@mwr.campbell.army.mil)

Name of Activity: CDC Caregiver Staff “Resumes”

Description: Members of the CDC caregiver staff prepare “autobiographical resumes” in which they share with parents their achievements, accomplishments, and qualifications. They also tell parents why they are so motivated and enjoy working with young children. Parents have expressed how this personal touch helps foster a closer relationship between the caregivers and the families.

Installation POC: Doris Johnson (doris.johnson@mwr.campbell.army.mil)

Location: Fort Carson

Name of Activity: "Hatching New Ideas Egg Hunt"

Description: The Easter Egg Hunt and Information Fair is a very successful annual event that attracts hundreds of parents and children and allows MWR to showcase its activities. The "non-traditional" egg hunt is conducted every 30 minutes for all age groups (Ages 0-10) with children "hunting" for one specific egg identified by a card they receive at the registration table. This hunt ensures that all youth find their own special egg and ensures that the less aggressive children are not overwhelmed by the more aggressive children (*and parents*). The event was held in the Special Events Center and included entertainment, games, activities, crafts, displays, information booths, face painting, and a small "petting zoo" for the children to enjoy. Other MWR activities set up interactive activities for attendees to participate in during the event.

Installation POC: Jan McConnell (jan.mcconnell@carson.army.mil)

Location: Fort Dix

Name of Activity: State Support for Family Child Care (FCC) Providers

Description: As a result of a partnership with the State of New Jersey, FCC providers are eligible for financial help up to \$500 to make improvements in their home care operations to achieve accreditation. Providers can apply to go through this special program and receive money for equipment.

Installation POC: Cathleen Spiegel (cathy.spiegel@dix.army.mil)

Location: Fort Drum

Name of Activity: Safe Night/National Night Out

Description: Youth Services hosted an event called "Safe Night" where YS demonstrated to the military community the outdoor activities offered between 6:00 - 9:00 PM.

Installation POC: Tammy Demo (Tamara.Demo@drum.army.mil)

Location: Fort Hamilton

Name of Activity: Infant Albums

Description: Whenever infants leave the care area to go to the next age group room or due to a PCS, albums are presented to parents that include photos of the baby on the start date and for milestones such as self-feeding, taking steps, and crawling. Also included are photos of the caregivers and classmates, and – on the last page – a graduation photo. Parents are delightfully surprised!

Installation POC: Irene Metzler (Irene.Metzler@us.army.mil)

Name of Activity: Preschool Children "Memory Box"

Description: Whenever preschool children leave the care area for the next age group or due to a PCS, a "Memory Box" is decoupaged with photos taken during the time the child was enrolled, photos of classmates, and caregivers. Local tobacco shops donate the empty cigar boxes that are used.

Installation POC: Irene Metzler (Irene.Metzler@us.army.mil)

Name of Activity: Customer Service Info / Feedback

Description: Whenever a sponsor provides notification of withdrawing a child from the Child Development Center, a packet of information is prepared that includes the Health Assessment, immunization record, record of total payments made for that year, and the Tax ID number. The program director includes a personal note that mentions how the child and family will be missed and requests that the sponsor use the ICE website to rate the CDC services.

Installation POC: Irene Metzler (Irene.Metzler@us.army.mil)

Location: Fort Hood

Name of Activity: Share Your Special Projects Contest

Description: CYS Training Specialists sponsored a "Share Your Special Project" Contest in which staff members from the installation CYS met to "show and tell" about their special projects ranging from the making of patriotic quilts (then sent to troops in Iraq) to washable Baby Books (with computerized pictures printed on the cloth). Resulted in great enthusiastic information sharing...all done in fun competitive environment.

Installation POC: J. Yveta Phillips (jennifer.y.phillips@us.army.mil)

Location: Fort Irwin

Name of Activity: School Age Services (SAS) "Pet Week"

Description: During "Pet Week," SAS staff taught school age children about different animals as pets and what it takes to care for them. Children made homemade dog treats which were then delivered to the Fort Irwin Vet Clinic. The children toured the Clinic and also visited the Regimental Horse Stables. The finale of the week was a demonstration from a local dog breeder on agility, obedience, and show training.

Installation POC: Pam Hill (pam.hill@irwin.army.mil)

Name of Activity: Garden Oasis

Description: Working with staff, several Youth Center patrons transformed the back yard of the facility into a Garden Oasis by designing and constructing a sitting area with plants, benches, and a garden pond with a waterfall. Learning about aquaculture, landscaping, water upkeep, flow control and waterfall design, they now have a place to relax and socialize they helped to create.

Installation POC: Pam Hill (pam.hill@irwin.army.mil)

Location: Fort Jackson

Name of Activity: Child and Youth Services (CYS) "Welcome Wagon"

Description: As part of its Youth Sponsorship initiative, CYS instituted a Welcome Wagon to greet children and youth new to the installation. When incoming parents register with Central Enrollment, they can request a visit by a group of School-Age Program children who come to the house with hand-sewn gift bags filled with age appropriate toys and school-related items as a welcome to the "new kid."

Installation POC: Beverly Metcalfe (metcalfeb@jackson.army.mil)

Location: Fort Lewis

Name of Activity: Child "Step Aerobics" at the CDC

Description: The CDC preschool teacher leads the children in step aerobics once per week, as part of the indoor activities plan. This activity addresses concerns about young children and obesity, plus the children enjoy the music.

Installation POC: Molly Meyer (molly.meyer@lewis.army.mil)

Name of Activity: CDC Caregivers Support Group

Description: CDC staff who have deployed spouses have banded together as an internal support group that meets once a month, goes out to dinner to talk and socialize, and lets each other know the caring for the person goes beyond the work day.

Installation POC: Molly Meyer (molly.meyer@lewis.army.mil)

Fort McCoy

Name of Activity: "Reality Check" event

Description: This event is held at the middle school gymnasium and gives students an opportunity to allow young people to get a realistic glimpse of adult life and responsibilities.

Local business leaders, including CYS staff, have a variety of booths set up. The students have an opportunity to get hands-on experience dealing with personal finances, career exploration and daily living skills through a simulated activity called "reality check." The students have a pre-selected career and roll dice to determine their family status. As soon as they get their first paycheck and checkbook, they go to the Uncle Sam booth to pay their taxes. Students then visit the other booths where they make decisions about housing, childcare, transportation, insurance, entertainment, etc. Roaming police officers, medical personnel and "Madame Fate" roam through and provide the unpredictable events that happen to give students the opportunity to deal with the unexpected.

Installation POC: Kathy Brennan (kathleen.brennan@emh2.mccoy.army.mil)

Location: Picatinny Arsenal

Name of Activity: School Age Services Computer Challenge

Description: Fifteen educational computer activities were selected for school age youths. Each day the youths came into the computer lab they could complete another activity. The youth competed against one another to earn a prize. Progress was shown on a wall size game board, with pictures of the youth as game pieces. Result was increased enthusiasm to participate in computer lab activities.

Installation POC: Jessica Williams (jeswill@pica.army.mil)

Redstone Arsenal

Name of Activity: "Heating It Up With Books"

Description: Recognizing that reading is the pathway to learning, the School Liaison Officer developed a summer reading program titled "Heating It Up With Books At Redstone." Children and youth are encouraged to read and check out books from the post library. They are then awarded certificates, medallions for those that read 1,000 pages or more, and trophies to the top three readers in specific programs and categories. The program addresses the need for the children and youth to continue to read during the summer. This is the third year and the number of pages read continues to soar.

Installation POC: Pam Berry (Pam.Berry@redstone.army.mil)

Location: Fort Riley

Name of Activity: Family Child Care (FCC) Summer Volksmarch

Description: FCC providers and children meet for a summer Volksmarch in a quiet wooded area with paths located near the golf course. Several outdoor group games and activities start off the morning and help the kids get acquainted. Walkers could earn a sticker at each activity station and prizes were awarded to all walkers completing the Volksmarch. A picnic lunch and beverages were served at the end of the march.

Installation POC: Kay Forman (kay.forman@riley.army.mil)

Name of Activity: FCC "Art Night"

Description: FCC providers and children met for an evening of exploring art activities with a variety of media. The final project was making a group picture using shaving cream and different colors of tempera paint. This "modern art painting" was framed and put on display in the FCC office – the subject of much conversation that provides an opportunity to talk about our program to those visiting the office.

Installation POC: Kay Forman (kay.forman@riley.army.mil)

Name of Activity: JAMAICA-ME-CLEAN

Description: The Teen Center partnered with the Army Substance Abuse Prevention Team to host a Pool Party "Luau" and National Kids Day Celebration. The event was free to all Middle School and High School youth on Fort Riley and in the local civilian communities (Ogden,

Manhattan, and Junction City). There were contests, food, games, music and dancing – interspersed with positive messages about staying drug and alcohol free.

Installation POC: Jill O'Sullivan (osullivj@riley.army.mil)

Location: Rock Island Arsenal

Name of Activity: Child and Youth Services (CYS) “Love Luggage”

Description: The installation CYS program collected almost 100 pieces of luggage/book bags (many “gently used”, some new) for use by local foster children. Typically, foster children move from home to home with their few belongings in plastic trash bags and have nothing for their school books. The School-Age Program children help clean, repair, and decorate the luggage as part of the Character Counts program. The goal is to give every foster child in the area a suitcase or book bag of their own.

Installation POC: Nancy Swartout Lawson (lawsonn@ria.army.mil)

Location: Fort Rucker

Name of Activity: Spybotics

Description: School Age/Middle School Youth and teens embraced a 4-H Technology Club project that allows them to design, build, and program Lego robots. At the conclusion of the week-long class, youth take their robotic creations to the gym where they must maneuver their “Spybots” through an obstacle course they’ve programmed into their vehicles. Other youth come to watch and cheer on the competitors.

Installation POC: Pam Williams (WilliamsP@rucker.army.mil)

Location: Fort Stewart

Name of Activity: Parent University

Description: Parents attended Pulaski Elementary School in Savannah early Saturday morning to attend Parent University, a series of classes sponsored by the Fort Stewart and Hunter Airfield School Liaison Officer. Classes are designed to help mothers and fathers get to know their children’s needs and behaviors and learn to deal with them in a healthy and productive fashion. The University’s focus was not only on what the parents could learn from the instructors, but on what parents could learn from each other through their involvement in the classes. Pulaski Elementary School was selected rather than Fort Stewart because it is centrally located in the community, thus reducing some of the obstacles that might be in the way of parents’ attendance.

Installation POC: Dave Smith (Smithd@stewart.army.mil)

Name of Activity: Annual “Best Garden” Competition

Description: Children from all age groups plant a garden on their respective playground areas of the Child Development Centers. Three community members serve as judges. Each age group receives recognition for their hard work and each garden is given its own winning title (i.e., the Butterfly Garden, the Green Garden, etc.).

Installation POC: Dagmar Peguero-Olinger (darmar.pegueroolinger@us.army.mil)

Name of Activity: “Adopt a Gate”

Description: Children and youth from all CYS programs (Middle School/Teen; School Age Services; and Child Development Services) visit the installation’s entry control gates and show their appreciation to the Military Police and Security Guards by providing them refreshments.

Installation POC: Dagmar Peguero-Olinger (darmar.pegueroolinger@us.army.mil)

Location: U.S. Army Garrison-Michigan (Selfridge)

Name of Activity: “Provider Incentive”

Description: To increase the number of Homes Off Post and to find qualified licensed providers, a "child placement bonus" is offered. Providers receive a "one time per family" \$200 (along with their first subsidy payment) when they have gone through the installation Family Child Care training program. This initiative has been successful in our area.

Installation POC: Amy Sicken (sickena@tacom.army.mil)

Location: United States Military Academy (USMA), West Point

Name of Activity: Bike Rodeo

Description: Annual event with USMA Youth Services, Provost Marshal Office, USMA Military Police, and MWR to educate the community about benefits of bicycle safety and security. Bicycles are registered and inspected; and children/youth were certified in bicycle operation and safety. Activities included a law enforcement bike patrol demonstration and a visit from "McGruff, the Crime Dog." A small prize is offered to every child/youth attending the Rodeo.

Installation POC: Heidi Smith (Heidi.Smith@usma.edu)

OCONUS LOCATIONS

Location: Camp Hialeah

Name of Activity: Child Development (CD) Home

Description: A small Army community had command-sponsored families, but no child care options available for children birth to 5 years of age. The CD Home is a combination of Family Child Care and center-based care that offers hourly and full-day care in the home-like environment of an unoccupied family housing unit. The CD Home operates in accordance with Army guidance to meet health and safety requirements.

Installation POC: Tracy Roysdon (Tracy.Roysdon@korea.army.mil)

Location: Heidelberg

Name of Activity: Child Development Center (CDC) Vegetable Garden

Description: Kindergarten children at the Patrick Henry Village CDC planted a vegetable garden in the courtyard of the building. Parents helped the children clean and prepare the soil and then the children and teachers planted, watered, and weeded the garden. Children then prepare foods for "Summer Around the World" theme using vegetables from their own garden.

Installation POC: Pam Primmer (primmerp@26asg.heidelberg.army.mil)

Location: Landstuhl

Name of Activity: Multicultural Tin Types

Description: Children in the School Age Services program design sets and dress up in costumes to take pictures. Child learn about different cultures, enhance creative skills designing the sets and choosing the costumes – in addition to leaning about photography and creating an "old time" style photo.

Installation POC: Steve Pelletier (Steven.Pelletier@cmtymail.26asg.army.mil)

Location: Fort Richardson

Name of Activity: 4-H Entrepreneurial Club

Description: The Entrepreneurial Club runs the "School Age Services (SAS) Store" where club members interview for positions, have weekly business meetings, create a business plan, and conduct inventories. They also receive "SAS bucks" for the different jobs they do in the club and can buy things using the SAS bucks that they have earned. Parents support the program by helping to find businesses to donate items for the store.

Installation POC: Deborah Hopper (Deborah.Hopper@richardson.army.mil)

Location: Yongsan Army Garrison

Name of Activity: Cultures Around the World

Description: Throughout the year, staff members at the Yongsan CDC recognize the importance of cultural experiences for young children. The biggest cultural celebrations take place around December and January when each classroom transforms into a country from around the world. Japan, France, Korea, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and many others were featured during this year's celebration. Classrooms donned appropriate cultural attire and environments changed into a new world to explore. Families were invited to participate in and experience native foods, language, songs, and dance. The entire project was a success and parents look forward to it annually.

Installation POC: Ms. Claudette Mohn (MohnC@korea.army.mil)

Name of Activity: Leadership Forum for Potential New Leaders

Description: Each fall, the Yongsan Middle School and Teen program has conducted a leadership training event for new YS members. Participants learn about our baseline and partnership programs, work on their leadership skills, and participate in a variety of physical and social activities (e.g., swimming, hiking, biking, miniature golf, and bowling). The weekend event is held at a new location each year. Best of all, the workshops and activities are led by current teen leaders in our programs: peer to peer teaching works really well for the new teens and helps the current teen leaders hone their presentation skills.

Installation POC: Ms. Bo Fluharty (FluhartyB@korea.army.mil)

Location: Camp Zama

Name of Activity: 4-H Technology Club

Description: The cornerstone of the Youth Technology Lab is the 4-H Technology Club – a group of tech-savvy teens that maintains the Youth Center's web site and adds the "techno touch" to many aspects of the CYS program. Recently the club provided digital video production at the Youth Center's Saturday night dance.

Installation POC: Ervin Lawrence (Ervin.Lawrence@zama.army.mil)